

## Public Program Update

### Jan 2004

#### PUBLIC PRODUCTS

##### **“Caution Advised on Area Lakes” no longer valid**

The phrase “**Caution Advised on Area Lakes**” is no longer a valid phrase to be put into the ZFP product and there is no policy that allows for the wording. At a national Public Focal Points Meeting with the NWSHQ Public Branch and all Regional Public Program Managers back in 2001, it was decided since only SR and a few other offices in other regions used "Caution Advised on Area Lakes" in the ZFP, and since NWS customers want standardized products, that the NPW Lake Wind Advisory would be the best avenue to use to inform our customers of this wind hazard instead of a stand alone statement in the zones. SR fought for the statement to be included in the zones at the meeting, but to no avail.

The other offices outside of SR have already been issuing an NPW for Lake Wind Advisories and it is working well. If you wish to not issue an NPW all the time for Lake Wind Advisories, an alternative is to set the local criteria high (after coordination with your customers and surrounding WFOs) for borderline windy situations and instead state "windy" or "breezy" in the ZFP and then mention wind cautions in a NOW product. As a reminder, 10-515 states WFOs "should" issue NPW Advisories (not "will").

##### **Kudos from NWSHQ on the PFM**

SR led the other regions in getting **PFMs** in the correct format with correct lat/lons. From Doug Young, NWSHQ: “W'ere almost there with our PFMs. 112 office are now issuing PFMs, which include a total of about 928 locations in the lower 48 states and Puerto Rico.”

Thank you to everyone involved in helping SR lead the correct format of the PFMs.

##### **Kudos from NWSHQ on the AFD**

Also from Doug Young, Public Branch at NWSHQ on Nov 6th: “I want to commend you on your efforts to have offices comply with the new **AFD format**. I've taken a moment (and will continue to do so) to randomly check several AFDs across the nation. The improvement from 2 weeks ago is phenomenal - most of the WFOs are following the new format. Overall, NWS AFDs are much more consistent...and I'm hoping we get some positive external feedback in that regard.”

##### **Earthquake Reports**

As a reminder, earthquake reports are now issued as EQRXXX's (where XXX is your modernized PIL). This became effective at 12UTC on **January 7, 2004**. EQREQI's will no longer be valid (PNS: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notifications/scn03-69eqr.txt>).

For more details on the earthquake report product refer to Directive **10-518**, Section 4 and see product examples in Appendix A (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/pd01005018b.pdf>).

### **Changes to PNS's and and Lead Times**

NWS Instruction **10-1805**, entitled "National Service and Technical Change Messages," will be in effect on **January 7, 2004**. NWSI 10-1805 supersedes WSOM A-40, "Service Change Process". (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/pd01018005a.pdf>)

One of the most significant changes in NWSI 10-1805 regards minimum advance lead times, which are described in Section 5 and Table 1. New advance lead times are specified for most types of service (PNS) and technical changes. Some of the advance lead times are a few weeks longer (increased from 60 days to 75 days) some are doubled (increased from 60 days to 120 days), and some specified as 6 to 12 months or more. A waiver from the OCWWS director will be required if the appropriate minimum advance lead time cannot be provided.

All service and technical changes transmitted on or after the effective date of NWSI 10-1805 will have lead times as specified in Table 1. A national Public Information Statement has been issued (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notifications/notif03/scn03-72notification.txt>) and posted on the NWS directives web site, to alert NWS staff, partners, and customers of the exact effective date.

The new advance lead times were requested in correspondence the NWS received from the Commercial Weather Services Association. NWSHQ briefed the national partners on the minimum advance lead times at the NWS Partners meeting on September 11, 2003.

### **AFD FORMAT QUESTIONS**

Some good questions were sent in about the format of the AFD (see Section 5 in Directive 10-503). I thought I'd share NWSHQ's answers to the questions:

**Question 1:** Near the top of page 45 in the Public Directive 10-503, it states:

"Exclusions. Do not list short duration warnings (of a few hours or less) for convective events, and flash floods; severe thunderstorm and tornado watches; or flood warnings."

I always thought we were to include severe thunderstorm and tornado watches since they are usually long in duration. Is that correct?

**Answer 1:** Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado watches are included in the ZFP, but were never included in the AFD Watch/Warning/Advisory block. As per WSOM C-45 issued in December 1994, "Exclusions--Do not list short-fused warnings (of a few hours or less) for convective events, flash floods, or mesoscale high wind events; severe thunderstorm and tornado watches; and flood warnings."

**Question 2:** Since we have a two state responsibility area, our AFD Watch Warning Section would look like this according to the directive (an example including a small craft advisory and flood watch):

EXAMPLE 1

.LIX WATCHES/WARNING/ADVISORIES...  
LA...FLOOD WATCH ALL OF SE LA THROUGH TONIGHT. SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY  
COASTAL WATERS FOR COASTAL WATERS EAST OF ATCHAFALAYA RIVER  
MS...FLOOD WATCH SW MS THROUGH TONIGHT. SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT.

However, I think the option to include the coastal waters as a separate line in the Watch Warning Advisory Block would make the product easier to read when you have watch/warning/advisories for land areas as well as the coastal waters, like this:

EXAMPLE 2

.LIX WATCHES/WARNING/ADVISORIES...  
LA...FLOOD WATCH FOR ALL SE LA THROUGH TONIGHT.  
MS...FLOOD WATCH SW MS THROUGH TONIGHT.  
LA/MS COASTAL WATERS....SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY ATCHAFALAYA RIVER TO  
PASCAGOULA MS.

Is example 2 format allowed according to the Directive. Also...are there any users depending on a specific format of the watch/warning section?

**Answer 2:** Either format is quite acceptable to our users.

**Question 3:** Which is the correct format for the Watch/Warning/Advisory portion?

.MGB...Watches/Warnings/Advisories...None.

or

.MGB...Watches/Warnings/Advisories...  
None.

If there are actually any watches, warnings or advisories, do they start on the same line as the

.MGB... line or do they drop down and start on the next line?

**Answer 3:** In short, either one is acceptable. However, if the only entry is "NONE", or it is short, keep it on the same line. However, for multiple states or complex events, it may be better to place on separate lines.

## BACKUP

### Backup Directive

The backup directive (10-2201) was signed and posted on 12/22/03. The effective date is February 5, 2004. This will allow the regional supplements to be written before the directive becomes effective.

### SR Backup Supplement

The SR Backup Supplement was sent out for review in November and December. Many excellent comments were received and incorporated. The document is now being reviewed by NWSHQ and the Union and should be ready for signature in January.

## DIRECTIVE REMINDERS

The main points to remember about Directive 10-513 (Winter Products) and Directive 10-515 (Non-Precipitation Products):

**Watch** products for NPW/WSW are **mandatory** (will) issuances

**Warning** products for NPW/WSW are **mandatory** (will) issuances

**Advisory** products for NPW/WSW are **recommended** (should) issuances

**Outlook** products for NPW/WSW are **optional** (may) issuances

NWSI 10-513/515 superseded the old associated WSOM/OML/ROML manuals/letters.

## DIRECTIVE POSTINGS

NWSI 10-506 has finally been signed! It has an effective date of January 2, 2004.

## LINKS

A square miles field has been added to the cwa layer in the uszone website. When the cwa layer is active the info tool can be used to access the area in square miles for each cwa:

<http://nwshqgis.nws.noaa.gov/website/uszone/viewer.htm>